THE International Collector

and Victor Stamp News

April, 1912

Volume 2

Number 5

Editor and Publisher

Gordon H. Crouch

911 Dovercourt Rd.

TORONTO - - CANADA

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VOLUME 2 APRIL 1912 NUMBER 5

A Postage Stamp Celebration

HISTORY OF THE STAMP

BY FELIX D. SEMPF

The English and American Post Office Departments have called a joint conference for a celebration of the 4,000th birthday of the postage stamp. These authorities have decided, after researches extending over 25 years, that the first stamp was issued 4,000 years ago in China, and that the proper time for celebrating its birthday will be in 1914.

The words "postage stamp" did not have their origin in a stamp or government label attached to a letter or paper as is done to-day, but in an old Chinese word of many syllables which literally means, "the place to which a thing is to be directed and delivered."

Early Chinese emperors and officials, living many centuries before the beginning of the Christian era having a message to send to some distant part of the Empire, or to Borneo, India, what is now Australia, or even to Asia Minor, "posted" the letter by placing a combination seal of wax and silk upon it, bearing the royal signet, and gave it to a trusted post-carrier, who upon penalty of death must deliver it safely to those for whom it was intended.

Out of this custom and the necessities of governments of raising revenues through the delivery of messages, grew the sign or signal of the "post," which now we call the postage stamp. So far as we know, China was the first government to collect revenue from everyday people for the delivery of messages. The government entered into a contract with its people that it would carry letters for them if they would pay the post-rate, and it guaranteed to see the letters were safely delivered if properly addressed.

This was fully two thousand years before the birth of Christ, when few people wrote letters or sent messages of any kind. Consequently the rates of postage were high. The delivery of an ordinary letter from the present Pekin of China, to the present Calcutta, of India, represented a "post-stamp" charge of one hundred dol-

lars in gold of our money. So excessive was the charge, private individuals engaged in the business of delivering letters, competing with the government, and doing the work for much less cost, but not with the certainty of being able to get the letters to their destination that the more powerful government had.

After a time the government forbade private individuals to compete with it, and the custom of its exclusively carrying the mails spread down from China to India, entered Asia Minor, went on to Greece and Rome, and finally found its earliest definite expression in England, about 1840, under the posts administration of Sir Rowland Hill.

So much for the history of how the postage stamp got a definite place in the world's affairs. Now as to the stamps themselves.

Postage stamps get their rarity of value not alone from the frequently peculiar use governments have made of them, but the use which cities, other forms of government, and individuals have made of them. Along this line Calman and Collin's book or catalogue, printed in New York in 1902, is particularly valuable as a guide, as is also Luff's book on the postage stamps of the United States, which was issued in New York that same year.

In the year 1894, owing to some trouble in San Francisco and neighborhood, the government mails could not be delivered. A bicycle mail route was created between Fresno and San Francisco, and this led to the legal issuance of a 25-cent stamp that is now a rarity. In 1845 the United States Government being unwilling to undertake the expense of a general issue of stamps, authorized certain postmasters to issue them. Several postmasters took advantage of this authority, and the stamps they issued have now a high value. They were so successful in the sale of stamps the government itself took over the business in 1847.

The highest authority given by stamp collectors is to those stamps issued by established governments. Stamps of temporary or false governments do not have as high a value, although many are considered rare. Thus, the labels issued by Aguinaldo in the Philippines, and by the early provisional government of Cuba, are curiosities, but not of the value of a regular government issue.

There are two kinds of stamps, the adhesive and those which are impressed upon the envelope or wrapper. Adhesive stamps are attached to packages before mailing. The only exception to this is found in the case of some United States newspaper stamps.

To England we owe the first successful use of postage stamps as we now know them. Sir Rowland Hill made them so popular with the English public they were adopted by Mauritius, an English colony, by Brazil, France, Switzerland, and the United States before 1850. Since 1860 nearly all the civilized nations of the world have adopted the postage stamp as the most convenient means of indicating that delivery of a message has been prepaid.

The earliest shape of the postage stamp is practically that which is in use to-day. The triangular, diamond-shaped, octagonal, and square have been tried as experiments by different countries, but in nearly all cases the return has been made to rectangular form and usually to about the same size as that of the original issue of England. Sizes have differed greatly, the smallest being a stamp of Bolivar, a half-inch, and the largest the United States newspaper stamp of 1865, 2¼ by 3⅞ inches.

The original designs of the stamps of many countries are their finest; but there are notable cases in which the improvement both in design and workmanship has been wonderful. A prominent example of this is found in the various issues for Uruguay, South America. The earliest types, those between 1856 and 1866, are of

most inferior workmanship. But the stamps from this government since 1884 are the finest possible engravers can produce. No more artistic stamps are produced in the world.

The first adhesive stamp ever issued was the one penny black stamp of England. Collectors are fond of picking this up wherever they can get it. The collecting of stamps is called philately, and it has several advantages over the gathering of other objects, such as the small space required for a large and valuable collection. There is also a standard of value by means of which the worth of stamps may be estimated. This is found in the standard catalogues, which, being based upon a knowledge of the number of stamps in existence and prices collectors are willing to pay for them, contain approximate valuation for most of them.

I may say here that the value of stamps depends, not, as is commonly supposed, upon their age, but upon the number that have been issued and the number preserved. Great countries like the United States and the principal nations of Europe, issue large numbers of every stamp that they put into circulation. The stamp which corresponds to the ordinary letter rate in any large country is always common.

But very old issues of small countries whose postal service was limited attain high value. During the war between the States, postmasters of the South issued certain stamps, some of which now have a value of five hundred dollars or more. The United States Baltimore stamp of the ten cent denomination, which differs from the five cent only in the numeral, is one of the rarest known. The first issue of Mauritius brings a very high price, $7,000 for a fine specimen. All early issues of stamps are continually increasing in value, for the supply of them is limited and the demand grows constantly.

The most valuable collection of stamps in the world is owned in France, and one of the next valuable is possessed by the British Museum.

A Poetic Gem From an English Stamp Paper.

To all you stamp collectors who
  Don't take advice amiss,
Some good advice I'd offer, and
  That good advice is this:
Don't be a slave, 'tis better far
  A new line out to strike.
Don't do just what you're told—but just
  Collect just what you like.

The wisest will not always choose
  A country on the boom.
Where all rub shoulders, recollect,
  There's not much elbow room.
If by the nose you're blindly led,
  You through the nose must pay;
To-morrow let folks wildly rush
  For what you like to-day.

Now, if you like this "poem," well—
  It shows you know what's what;
And if you don't—well, then it shows
  You know what's "tommy-rot!"

A Fortune in Stamp Collection.

A lady living in Sydney for many years has hoarded a collection of postal stamps left by her father, who had pursued his hobby of collecting for fifty years. The daughter was ignorant of any knowledge of philately and threw the stamps into an old trunk. Last week she visited a stamp exhibition, and for the first time awoke to the value of the stamps in her possession. She secured the assistance of experts, who estimate the value of the collection at $100,000.—London Standard.

I ran against Brainy Bowers last night in this city.
"I am a stamp collecter at last," he said.
"That so? How are you making out?"
"Fine. I'm a specialist."
"Well, well, what particular line?"
"Oh, I'm collecting Beer Stamps on original covers."
—From Puritan C. C. C.

"THE POWER THAT RULES ON EARTH"
PASTORAL SCENES ON THE PLANET OF MARS
PROCLAMATION
TO MY FRIENDS ON THE PLANET OF MARS!
Five years ago, when communication was opened with Mars, and a kind of Airship began plying between the planet of earth and the planet of Mars, I came among you. I got off the earth because of it's intolerable conditions. "The Common People" who now live on the earth, are gradually being exterminated, not only of hunger but by wars, the rich man's rule supreme, and the poor man must carry in his pocket a signed license entitling him to live.
On the planet of earth it is a disgrace to be poor; on the planet of Mars it's a disgrace to be rich.
This day marks the initial number of "The Mars Weekly Planet." It will keep you informed, not only of happenings on our own beautiful planet of Mars, but also on that wonderful planet known as Earth. On the inside pages of this number appears a full accounts of the Marvellous, Astounding conditions existing on Earth at this, the year 2110. Our own special correspondents on Earth will tell you of things beyond your belief; they will tell you how people travel from a city of Chicago to a city of New York in 1 1/2 seconds; of buildings 100 stories above the earth and 50 stories below; they will tell you of the Dog Parade for "the common people," and of astounding, unbelievable conditions on the Earth.
THE EDITOR
"HE TILLS THE SOIL ALL DAY"
"AT EVENTIDE HE MILKS THE GENTLE COCK"
"IN SUNDAY BEST WERE ON OUR WAY TO KIRK"
"THE POWER THAT RULES ON MARS"

THE MOST UNIQUE PUBLICATION IN THE WORLD FULL OF THE FUNNIEST KIND OF FUN!

The picture above is a fac-simile of the "FREAK" Newspaper, A YANKEE NEWSPAPER ON MARS in the year 2110—200 years from now. In 200 years from now, communication will have been established with the planet of Mars. A Yankee, no longer able to live on Earth because of it's intolerable conditions in 2110, migrates to Mars and starts this paper. Read all about the funny people who live on that planet—of their funny ways, and how smart adventurers from Earth go there and "Bum flam" them out of all their money! It's uproariously funny—a cure for any case of the blues. Guaranteed a laugh in every line

This paper also tells all about the conditions on Earth 200 years from now.

What Will This Old World Be Like 200 Years Hence?

Read this paper and find out! It is wonderfully realistic, powerful in description, points a terrific Moral, but is at the same time excruciatingly funny. Read how the people travel from Chicago to New York in 1 1/2 seconds; how the Trillionaire Trusts finally succeed in "cornering" the air and in making people pay for breathing; how the "common people" must carry in their pocket a "license to live," and, what happens to them if they have no "licence." Read about "Condensed pork and beans—lunch in a second;" about the hens that lay hard boiled eggs; how the "Stork" "lost his job" and scores of other Marvelous things.

Sterling Supply Co. **Toronto, Canada**

Troubles of a Stamp Dealer.

One great difficulty which the small dealer finds himself confronted with is the question of who to send goods on approval to and who not. John Smith, writing from some town in Massachusetts, requests a selection of stamps on approval and gives the name of a prominent dealer in New York, or William Brown, of his own city, as reference. The question to be decided now is whether or not it is worth a chance. The dealer does not feel disposed to write the New York reference and William Brown would probably not be very satisfactory, and altogether he is not any better off than he would have been had he eliminated the customary "Reference required" from his advertisement. The best safeguard seems to lie in that list of collectors who are members of some prominent philatelic society, whose references have been looked into and found satisfactory. The old adage that every one should be considered honest until he has been proven otherwise, is one the value of which must be decided by the dealer himself; in fact, the troubles of any person who enters the philatelic field for profit are many. There is the "sample copy fiend," who writes for every thing, as well as the person "with ten cents to spend" who requests a selection on approval and after retaining it for three or four weeks returns it with less than the original amount expended for postage. Truly the road to be travelled by the "small man" is crossed by many barriers.

Papers Reprinted No. 2

The Perkins-Bacon Queen's Head Dies.

(By C. S. F. Crofton, in the "Philatelic Journal of India.")

The method employed by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. for producing and reproducing stamp dies, has in the case of the one penny and twopence Great Britain, been described in the two well known histories of British stamps. A block of metal was first covered with one of the engine-turned devices chosen for the background, and the place where the head was to be was then scraped away and the head inserted. For the twopence an impression was made from the one penny in soft metal from which a reproduction was taken; the bottom line of this was then erased and the new value

Continued on Page 14

THE NEW ENGLAND STAMP MONTHLY

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4	Azores	.05	8	Hong Kong	.10
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5	Bermuda	.08	3	Iceland	.05
6	Bardoer	.10	20	India	.10
10	Bolivia	.07	30	Italy	.10
12	Brazil	.10	10	Jamaica	.10
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3	orea	.06	25	Mexican Revenues	.10
3	Crete	.04	30	Netherlands	.20
12	Cuba	.05	10	Newfoundland	.40
50	Cuba	.50	10	New South Wales	.10
10	Chili	.03	20	New Zealand	.10
10	Ceylon	.14	15	Nicaragua	.12
15	Columbia	.14	4	Orange River	.08
8	China	.08	10	Panama	.25
10	Cape Good Hope	.04	10	Persia	.10
25	Canada	.15	25	Peru	.25
20	Denmark	.07	8	Philippines	.06
5	Dominican Republic	.05	20	Porengal	.06
34	Dutch India (five)	.60	10	Porto Rico	.15
5	Ecuador	.08	5	Prussia	.12
10	Egypt	.06	15	Queensland	.30
2	Fernando Poo	.10	20	Roumania	.06
4	Fiji	.10	20	Russia	.18
20	France	.07	20	Salvador	.15
25	Germany	.08	15	Servia	.15
25	Great Britain	.08	20	Turkey	.07
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1909 Lincoln V. D. B. S. mint ..... .15
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England big 2 penny 1797 ..... .60
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10 Confederate bills perfect ..... .25

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engraved in its place. In a similar way the three half pence was also made from the one penny. The object of mechanical reproduction was evidently partly economical and partly to secure uniformity. It is the engraving of a portrait that costs the money, and it is practically impossible for the most skilful engraver to copy a likeness exactly.

One would naturally expect that a method which has these two important advantages would be rather extensively followed and it makes an interesting little study to trace Messrs. Perkins Bacon's various dies back to their originals. To do this it is necessary to bear in mind that as the head was necessarily done after the background, heads which look very much the same but are on different backgrounds must have been separately engraved.

Commencing with the original one penny die, we first of all note that just as in the case of the De la Rue head die, it was used only for Great Britain and for none of the colonies. But it was used for all the fiscals of Great Britain as well as the three full-sized postage stamps, namely, for the Life Policies of 1853 and 1871, the Irish Registration of Deeds and of Titles, and the one shilling and sixpence Customs. In fact, we can prove that it was used for these since the early plates of 1853 are in Heath's original design and the later plates have Humphrys' retouch.

The case for all these English stamps is so completely beyond dispute that one can approach the Colonials with a good deal of confidence. The first of these is the Britannia type with no value expressed, which was first prepared for Mauritius in January, 1849, and was reimpressed for Trinidad and Barbados in April, 1851, and April, 1852, respectively. Fresh impressions for these three colonies were taken in 1858 and 1859 with the values sixpence and one shilling added. In 1873, five new impressions were taken for Barbados, having the values ½d., 1d., 3d., 4d., and 5s. The last named stamp is larger in size, but the old die was used for the centre, as is evidenced by the vertical lines of ornamentation at each side of Britannia, which are meaningless on the larger stamp if it had not been that they were already on the die when they formed the edges of the smaller stamps.

The next die worthy of notice is the diamond-shaped stamp with emblems prepared in September, 1851, for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It was reproduced

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in triplicate for the three values, 3d., 6d., and 1s. for each colony. The central crown was removed and re-engraved after turning through half a right angle for the 1d. and 5d. Newfoundland of 1863. In 1853 another impression had the centre removed from the first Perkins Bacon colonial head, which had been prepared for New Zealand in the previous year, was stamped in its place to form the one penny die of Nova Scotia. This New Zealand head was engraved by Humphrys from the well-known coronation picture of Queen Victoria, but it was soon found to be on too small a scale to give satisfactory results, and was not used for other colonies, though the later values prepared by the firm for New Zealand were for motives of uniformity and economy, produced from the original die. If the value tablet is cut off a New Zealand stamp, the remainder is very much the same as the Perkins Bacon die for Chile. The dimensions, inner background, outer background and corners are all identical and it is, therefore, not surprising to find that the Chile and New Zealand dies were made at the same time, viz., 1852.

A fresh head die was engraved in 1854 by Humphrys from a drawing by E. H. Corbould, and was used for the 5d., 6d., 8d., and 1s. of New South Wales and the 1d., 2d., 6d., and 1s. of South Australia. It must be remembered that just as in the case of the De la Rue dies there were three different stages; first the head on its own inner background, second the design of the stamp engraved round the head, and, third the value tablet. The New South Wales and South Australian stamps had one common first stage but separate second stages. This first stage does not appear to have been used again after 1854, but a copy (not a reproduction) was made in 1859 for the four octagonal values of Ceylon. The latter stamps have a different background to the head, and though the head at first glance looks like the 1854 die, more careful examination shows alterations in the poise, size and details. If a clearly printed copy of one of these Ceylons is examined, it will be seen that there is an oval round the Queen's head. This oval seems to be too faint and meaningless to have constituted an intentional feature of the design, but is easily explained by comparison with another Perkins Bacon design of the same year, namely, the Ionian Islands. It appears that the Ionian stamps, though issued a few months later, were made from a die prepared before the Ceylon plates, and, in fact, that this die was used for Ceylon.

He Read the Papers

and Knew How to Make a Will

When William Marvel, of Tuckersmith Township Ontario, died, every person in the vicinity expected to see a legal battle between the heirs. Some lawyers also had expectations.

The old man had not been on good terms with any of his relatives, and was equally averse to lawyers. It was inferred that he would leave no will, and the claimants were ready to do battle—legally, of course—for their "rights."

One of the first things found among his papers, however, was a will made out on a BAX Will form. That settled the matter definitely—there was no fight.

It has been found that it is useless to dispute wills made on the BAX Will Forms; the moral is obvious—to save lawyer's fees and be sure that your wishes will be carried out in case of death, Use a BAX Will Form. Each form is accompanied by a specimen will and full instructions for your guidance, but be sure to get a BAX Legal Will Form, as they are copyrighted and indisputable.

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THE AMERICAN PUBLISHING CO.

974 Whitlock Ave. New York, N.Y.

In January, 1856, W. Humphrys engraved a die from another of Corbould's drawings for St. Helena, and in the same year the second and earlier design for Ceylon made its appearance. These designs are similar as regards the heads, but are on different backgrounds. They appear to be two separate engravings from the same drawing.

The enlarged head from the coronation picture, on, of course, a new background, first appeared for Tasmania in March, 1855. This die was very popular and was used again for Tasmania in 1858, for Bahamas and Natal in 1859, and for Grenada and Queensland in 1861. Each of these colonies used the same die for any later stamps that they required.

At the end of 1860, Messrs. Perkins Bacon employed a new engraver named Jeens. He started by making three different dies from the same design. The first was for St. Lucia and the 9d. South Australia, both issued in December, 1860; the second was for St. Vincent; and the third was for Antigua and Turks Islands. Each had its own background. The St. Lucia and South Australia being on the same background, have the heads absolutely identical, so also the Antigua and Turks Islands. But the head of the former pair differs in small details from the head of the latter, and both differ from St. Vincent, which has a third background.

The backgrounds themselves, moreover, are of considerable interest, though they have not the same chronological connection as the head dies. The one used by Jeens for St. Vincent in 1861 had previously been used by Humphrys for the 1d., 2d. and 3d. New South Wales of 1856; and the background for the Jeens South Australia 4d. and 2s. of 1867 was that employed by Heath for the original one penny Great Britain. This same background was also used by Humphrys for the triangular Capes in 1853 and the Victoria Queen on throne in 1856. Other backgrounds that did duty for more than one country are (a) South Australia of 1855, used for the outer part of Queensland in 1861; (b) the outer background of the Life Policies of 1853, used also for the outer parts of St. Lucia 1860 and Grenada 1861, and for the 3d. Newfoundland; (c) the outer backgrounds of the Bahamas 4d. and 6d. 1861, used for the Irish Registration of Deeds, and the Grenada unappropriated plate of 1875; (d) the inner background of St. Lucia and the South Australia 9d. was used for the outer portions of Turks Island and the ½d. postage of Great Britain.

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